

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

AID-05 IO-13 SSM-05 SCCT-01 /092 W

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R 251201Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6398

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 11416

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG LE SY XF

SUBJECT: LEBANON IN CAIRO PRESS

1. HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION. PAPERS REPORTED BRIEFLY AND WITHOUT COMMENT THAT HOUGHTON AND MACK CONCLUDED THEIR MISSION AND LEFT FOR CYPRUS AUGUST 24. BOTH AHAM AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE GAZETTE REPORTED FUNSETH STATEMENT THAT US OPPOSED TO PARTITION, ALTHOUGH AHAM MERELY NOTED IT IN PASSING IN BODY OF LONGER STORY ON LEBANESE SITUATION. GAZETTE, WHICH HAD ASKED FOR SUCH A STATEMENT IN HOSTILE EDITORIAL AUGUST 24 (REFTEL) PRINTED US POSITION ON PAGE 1, WITHOUT ANY HINT OF REGRET FOR ITS EARLIER HARSH WORDS.

2. SUMMIT. ACCORDING TO PRESS, 13 AL STATES, INCLUDING JORDAN, HAVE OFFICIALLY APPROVED HOLDING ON SUMMIT ON LEBANON. LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER KARAME REQUESTED LEBANESE AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO TO NOTIFY ARAB LEAGUE THAT LEBANON ALSO AGREES TO ATTEND SUMMIT.

3. MILITARY. AMID REPORTS THAT BATTLES ESCALATED AUGUST 24,
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PAPERS STATE "ALL PARTIES" MEETING TO DISCUSS NEW PLAN ON

CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. ACCORDING TO AL FORCES COMMANDER CHUNAYM, WHO OFFERED NO DETAILS, PLAN GOES BEYOND MERE CEASEFIRE. PAPERS ALSO CARRY Wafa CLAIM THAT LEBANESE RIGHTISTS TROOPS HAVE ENTERED SOUTH LEBANON FROM ISRAEL IN FLANKING ATTACK ON LEFTIST FORCES, BUT NOTE REPORT UNCONFIRMED.

4. SYRIA. PRESS PLAYS UP PERES STATEMENT THAT SYRIA ON VERGE OF ANNEXATION OF EASTERN LEBANON, HAVING REMOVED BORDER MARKERS AND ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS SOLE AUTHORITY IN AREA. PAPERS ALSO NOTE THAT ASAD NOW HAS INVITED SARKIS TO VISIT DAMASCUS EARLY NEXT WEEK. AL REP AL-KHULI, MEANWHILE, CONCLUDED TALKS WITH KHADDAM AND ARRIVED IN BEIRUT.

5. ACCORDING TO INFLUENTIAL EGYPTIAN WEEKLY AKHIR SAA, AL-KHULI SAID THAT "US FORCES" HAVE ESTABLISHED COMPLETE BLOCKADE OF LEBANESE PORTS INCLUDING SIDON, TYRE AND TRIPOLI. THIS, HOWEVER, MAY ONLY BE FREUDIAN SLIP BY AL-KHULI OR AKIR SAA, SINCE STATEMENT IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDS DISCUSSION OF ROLE OF ISRAELI NAVY.
EILTS

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